# His Maieſties Letter

TO THE

Generals of the Navy at Sea.

*Together with*

His Majeſties moſt gratious

# DECLARATION,

To be communicated,

To all Captains, Commanders and Seamen belonging to the Fleet.

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*Dated from his Court at* Breda, *April* 14. 1660.

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Together with the Anſwer of the Generalls and Commanders at Sea to his Majeſties ſaid Letter Reſolved on at a General Council held aboard the *Nazeby*, upon *Thurſday*, *May* 3. 1660.

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*LONDON:*

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# To our Trusty and Well-beloved General *Monck*, and General *Montague*, Generals at Sea: To be communicated to the Fleet.

*Charls R.*

TRusty and Well-beloved, We greet you well: It is no small Comfort to Us, after so long and great Troubles and Miseries, which the whole Nation hath groaned under; and after so great Revolutions which have still increased those Miseries, to hear, That the Fleet and Ships which are the Walls of the Kingdom, are put under the Command of two persons so well disposed to, and concerned in the peace and happiness of the Kingdom, as We believe you to be; and that the Officers and Seamen under your Command, are more enclined to return to their Duty to Us, and put a period to the Distempers and Distractions which have so impoverished and dishonoured the Nation, then to widen the breach, and to raise their fortunes by Rapine and Violence: which gives Us great encouragement and hope, That God Almighty will heal the wounds, by the same plaister that made the Flesh Raw; that he will proceed in the same Method in pouring his Blessings upon

us, which he was pleaſed to uſe when he began to afflict us; and that the Manifeſtation of the good affection of the Fleet and Seamen towards Us, and the peace of the Nation, may be the prologue to that peace which was firſt interrupted by the miſtake and miſunderſtanding of their Predeceſſors, which would be ſuch a Bleſſing upon us all, that We ſhould not be leſs delighted with the manner, then the matter of it. In this Hope and Confidence, We have ſent the encloſed Declaration to you, by which you may diſcern, how much We are willing to contribute towards the obtaining the generall and publique peace: In which, as no man can be more, or ſo much concerned; ſo no man can be more ſollicitous for it. And we do very earneſtly deſire you, That you will cauſe the ſaid Declaration to be publiſhed to all the Officers and Seamen of the Fleet, to the end, That they may plainly diſcern, how much we have put it into their power to provide for the peace and happineſs of the Nation, who have been alwayes underſtood by them to be the beſt and moſt proper Counſellours for thoſe good ends: And you are likewiſe further to declare to them, That We have the ſame gracious purpoſe towards them, which We have expreſſed towards the Army at Land; and will be as ready to provide for the payment of all arrears due to them, and for rewarding them according to their ſeveral merits, as We have expreſſed to the other; and We will alwayes take ſo particular a care of them, and their condition, as ſhall manifeſt Our kindeneſs towards them. And ſo depending upon Gods bleſſing, for infuſing thoſe good Reſolutions in your and their hearts, which are beſt for us all, We bid you farewel.

*Given at our Court at* Breda *this* [illegible] *day of April*, 1660. *in the twelfth year of our Raign.*

At a Council of War held on board the Naſeby the third day of *May*, 1660. where were preſent the General, Vice-Admiral, Rear-Admiral, Capt. *Cuttance*, Capt. *Clark*, Capt. *Hayward*, Capt. *Penroſe*, and Capt. *Parks*, &c.

Upon the Generals communicating unto them a Letter from His Majeſtie, directed to General *Monck* and himſelf, bearing date the 14 of *April*, 1660. as alſo a Declaration of His Majeſtie of the ſame date.

Reſolved *(nemine Contradicente)*

*That the Commanders and Officers of the Fleet do receive the gracious Declaration of His Majeſtie, as alſo the expreſſions of His gracious purpoſes towards them, and the whole Fleet, (communicated in a Letter to the Generals) with great joyfulfulneſs of heart; and for them, do return unto His Majeſtie their moſt humble thanks, declaring and profeſſing there exact Loyalty and Duty unto His Majeſtie, and deſire the Generals of the Fleet humbly to repreſent the ſame unto him.*

It was alſo Reſolved,

*That the ſaid Letter, Declaration and Vote, ſhould be publikely read to the reſpective Ships and Companies of the Fleet now in the Downs, to know their ſenſe concerning the ſame.*

Which being accordingly performed, they did by loud acclamations, and other expreſſions of joy, declare their aſſent to the ſaid Vote, not one perſon in the whole Fleet, manifeſting any diſſent thereunto.

*Samuel Pepys* Secretary.

# The *DECLARATION.*

*CHARLES* by the Grace of God King of *England*, *Scotland*, *France* and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, To all Our loving Subjects of what degree or quality soever greeting. If the general distraction and confusion which is spread over the whole Kingdom, doth not awaken all men to a desire and longing that these wounds which have so many years together been kept bleeding, may be bound up; all We can say will be to no purpose; However after this long silence, we have thought it Our duty, to declare how much We desire to contribute thereunto: And that as We can never give over hope in good time to obtain the possession of that Right which God and Nature hath made Our due; So We do make it Our daily suit to the Divine Providence, that he will in Compassion to Us and Our Subjects (after so long misery and sufferings) remit Us and put Us into a quiet and peaceable Possession of that Our Right, with as little blood and damage to Our people as is possible; Nor do We desire more to enjoy what is Ours, than that all Our Subjects may enjoy what by Law is theirs, by a full and entire administration of Justice

ſtice throughout the Land, and by extending Our mercy where it is wanting and deſerved.

And to the end That the fear of puniſhment may not engage any conſcious to themſelves of what is paſt, to a perſeverance in Guilt for the future, by oppoſing the quiet and happineſs of their Country, in the reſtoration both of King, Peers, & People, to their juſt, ancient, and fundamental Rights: We do by theſe preſents declare, That We do grant a full and general Pardon which We are ready to paſs under Our great Seal of *England*, to all Our Subjects of what degree or quality ſoever, who within forty days after the publication hereof, ſhall lay hold upon this our grace and favour, and ſhall by any publick Act declare their doing ſo; And that they return to the Loyalty and Obedience of good Subjects, excepting onely ſuch Perſons as ſhall hereafter be excepted by *Parliament*; (Thoſe only excepted) Let our Subjects how faulty ſoever, rely upon the word of a King, ſolemnly given by this preſent *Declaration*, That no Crime whatſoever committed againſt us or our Royal Father before the publication of this, ſhall ever riſe in Judgement, or be brought in queſtion againſt any of them, to the leaſt indamagement either in their Lives, Liberties, or eſtates, or (as far forth lies in our power) ſo much as to the prejudice of their Reputation, by any reproach or terme of diſtinction from the reſt of our beſt Subjects. We deſiring and ordaining that henceforward all Notes of diſcord, ſeparation and difference of parties, be utterly aboliſhed among all our Subjects, whom we invite and conjure to a perfect Union among themſelves under our Protection, for the reſettlement of our juſt Rights and theirs in a *free Parliament*, by which upon the word of a King, We will be adviſed.

And becauſe the paſſion and uncharitableneſs of the times have produced ſeveral opinions in Religion, by

which

which men are engaged in parties & animosities against each other, which when they shall hereafter unite in a freedom of conversation, will be composed or better understood: We do declare a liberty to tender Consciences, and that no man shall be disquieted or called in question for differences of opinion in matters of Religion, which do not disturb the Peace of the Kingdom; And that we shall be ready to consent to such an Act of *Parliament*, as upon mature Deliberation shall be offered to Us, for the full granting that indulgence: And because in the continued distractions of so many years and so many great Revolutions, many Grants and Purchases of Estates have been made to, and by many Officers and Souldiers, and others who are now possessed of the same, and who may be liable to Actions at Law upon severall Titles; We are likewise willing that all such differences, and all things relating to such Grants, Sales, and Purchases, shall be determined in *Parliament*, which can best provide for the just satisfaction of all men who are concern'd.

And We do further declare, That We will be ready to consent to any Act or Acts of Parliament to the purposes aforesaid, and for the full satisfaction of all arrears due to all Officers and Seamen under the Command of the General at SEA: And that they shall be received into Our Service upon as good pay and conditions as they now enjoy. Given under Our sign *Manual* and privy Signet at Our Court at *Breda* this fourteenth day of *April*, 1660. In the twelfth year of Our Reign.

*Received the first of* May, 1660.

*FINIS.*